

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01863 292146Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

/064 W

----- 015739

R 291720Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2010

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, IS

SUBJ: NEW HISTADRUT GENERAL SECRETARY

1. YERUHAM MESHEL CONFIRMED UNANIMOUSLY BY LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP MARCH 28 AS SOLE CANDIDATE FOR POSITION OF HISTADRUT GENERAL SECRETARY FOR FOUR-YEAR TERM 1974-77. MESHEL HAS BEEN ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY SINCE RESIGNATION OF YITZHAK BEN-AHARON IN NOVEMBER 1973. HIS FORMAL ELECTION BY HISTADRUT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEAR FUTURE IS PRO-FORMA ACT AS LABOR-MAPAM ALIGNMENT HAS MAJORITY VOTE.

2. MESHEL'S SELECTION COMES AS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT TO MANY OBSERVERS WHO BELIEVE HE LACKS LEADERSHIP AND INTELLECTUAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION--ONE OF MOST DIFFICULT AND POTENTIALLY POWERFUL IN THE COUNTRY--AND BROAD-BASED SUPPORT OF HISTADRUT MEMBERSHIP. I WELCOME HIS SELECTION AND BELIEVE HE IS MUCH BETTER BALANCED THAN HIS PREDECESSOR AND MUCH LESS OF A PRIMA DONNA. HOWEVER, THERE WERE NO OTHER CANDIDATES ACCEPTABLE TO TOP PARTY LEADERSHIP. MESHEL, WHO HAD HEADED HISTADRUT TRADE UNION DEPARTMENT FROM 1961-68 AND SERVED AS DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY FROM 1969-73, WAS IN LINE FOR SUCCESSION TO TOP POST ONCE BEN-AHARON RESIGNED AND LABOR MINISTER ALMOGI WAS DISPATCHED BY PARTY TO BE MAYOR OF HAIFA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 01863 292146Z

3. MESHEL HAS WORKED ENERGETICALLY TO WIN SUPPORT FOR HIS

CANDIDACY. TRADITIONALLY ALIGNED WITH "GUSH" FACTION OF LABOR PARTY NOMINALLY HEADED BY FINANCE MINISTER SAPIR, HE HAS REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC CRITICISM OF ALIGNMENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSOR. AT SAME TIME HE HAS INDICATED SUPPORT OF DEMANDS FOR INTERNAL REFORMS IN HISTADRUT, PLEDGED GREATER HISTADRUT EFFORTS TO CLOSE SOCIAL GAP, AND FOUGHT HARD TO WIN SPECIAL COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE INCREASE IN FEBRUARY WHEN FOOD PRICES INCREASED SHARPLY AS RESULT GOVT CUT IN SUBSIDIES FOR BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES.

4. MOST IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE FACING MESHEL IS RENEGOTIATION OF 1972-73 WAGE AGREEMENTS. UNDER GOVERNMENT PRESSURE, HE WILL MOST LIKELY SEEK TO MODERATE WAGE INCREASES IN NEW 1974 AGREEMENTS IN LINE WITH FINMIN SAPIR'S ASSESSMENT OF WHAT ECONOMY CAN AFFORD, INCLUDING SOME CUTBACK IN CONSUMPTION OVER 1972 LEVEL. BUT HE WILL BE CONFRONTED BY HOST OF GROUPS--RANGING FROM ELEMENTS IN LABOR-MAPAM ALIGNMENT, TO OPPOSITION PARTIES IN HISTADRUT, AND LOCAL WORKS COMMITTEES--FOR WAGE INCREASES WHICH GO BEYOND GOVT'S GUIDELINES.

KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TELAV01863  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740070-0585  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974032/aaaaabwt.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW HISTADRUT GENERAL SECRETARY  
**TAGS:** ELAB, IS, (MESHEL, YERUHAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005